

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05124 01 OF 02 282117Z  
ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 /033 W  
-----122593 282251Z /64

R 281850Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1758

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 5124

FOR H FROM AMBASSADOR EAGLEBURGER

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: YO, US  
SUBJECT: BILL ON THE MIHAJLOVIC MONUMENT

REF: STATE 160627

1. PLEASE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING LETTERS TO SENATORS PELL,  
SPARKMAN, AND BAKER ON MY BEHALF. WE ARE SENDING THE  
ORIGINALS BY POUCH.

2. HONORABLE CLAIRBORNE PELL  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C 20510

DEAR SENATOR PELL:

WHILE I HAD THOUGHT THAT WITH MY DEPARTURE FROM  
WASHINGTON, I WOULD BE ABLE TO LEAVE YOU IN PEACE FOR  
A WHILE, I FIND I AM ALREADY COMPELLED TO COME TO YOU  
FOR HELP. AN ISSUE HAS ARISEN WHICH HAS THE POTENTIAL  
OF DOING SERIOUS HARM TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH  
YUGOSLAVIA, I.E., THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE SENATE--UNDER UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT PROCEDURES AND WITHOUT HEARINGS BEFORE THE SFRC--TO  
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AUTHORIZE CONSTRUCTION OF A MONUMENT TO HONOR  
GENERAL DRAGOLJUB (DRAZA) MIHAJLOVIC, LEADER OF  
THE YUGOSLAV CHETNIKS DURING WORLD WAR II.

AS YOU KNOW, THE MIHAJLOVIC ISSUE IS A  
VERY EMOTIONAL ONE, BOTH IN YUGOSLAVIA AND ABROAD.  
THE CHETNIKS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN SAVING THE LIVES

OF MANY AMERICAN AIRMEN, BUT SO WERE THE PARTISANS. FURTHER, THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS THAT THE CHETNIKS COLLABORATED WITH THE NAZIS RATHER THAN FIGHTING THEM. THUS, WHILE I HAVE NO DESIRE TO DEBATE THE MERITS OF RAISING A MONUMENT TO GENERAL MIHAJLOVIC, I DO WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT IT IS MY BELIEF THAT PASSAGE OF THE BILL BY THE CONGRESS WOULD HAVE AN EXTREMELY ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA. I RECEIVED A "MOST ENERGETIC PROTEST" AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AS SOON AS THE YUGOSLAVS LEARNED OF THE SENATE ACTION. AND I HAVE HAD THE ISSUE RAISED WITH ME BY SENIOR YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS ON VIRTUALLY EVERY ONE OF MY COURTESY CALLS THUS FAR.

I THINK YOU KNOW ME WELL ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT I WOULD NOT EXAGGERATE THE SITUATION SIMPLY TO MAKE MY LIFE HERE MORE COMFORTABLE. RATHER, I AM CONVINCED THAT SHOULD THE HOUSE NOW ACQUIESCE IN THE SENATE BILL WE WOULD HAVE CREATED AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS AND LARGELY UNNECESSARY PROBLEM IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

I HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI ALONG THE ABOVE LINES, ASKING FOR HIS SUPPORT WHEN AND IF THE MATTER COMES BEFORE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIRC. I REALIZE THAT THERE IS PROBABLY LITTLE THAT CAN OR SHOULD BE DONE IN THE SENATE NOW. BUT I DID WANT TO FLAG THIS PROBLEM FOR YOU IN THE EVENT THAT THE PROPOSAL IS RAISED IN THE SENATE AGAIN NEXT YEAR. SHOULD THAT HAPPEN I HOPE THAT YOU, AS A MEMBER OF THE RULES COMMITTEE, COULD WORK TO ASSURE THAT THE PROPOSAL IS REFERRED TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHERE ALL SIDES OF THE ISSUE COULD BE HEARD. YOURS SINCERELY, LAWRENCE S. EAGLEBURGER, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.

3. HONORABLE JOHN J. SPARKMAN  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:

I HAVE RECENTLY LEARNED THAT A BILL HAS PASSED THE SENATE, UNDER THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT

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-----123703 282251Z /64

R 281850Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1759

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BELGRADE 5124

FOR H FROM AMBASSADOR

PROCEEDURE AND WITHOUT SFRC HEARINGS,  
AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MONUMENT  
TO GENERAL DRAGOJLUB (DRAZA) MIHAJLOVIC. I  
ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE SAME BILL IS BEFORE  
THE HIRC. THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER IS TO  
DESCRIBE TO YOU THE SERIOUS DAMAGE FINAL  
PASSAGE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS MEASURE  
WOULD HAVE ON OUR RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA.

I DO NOT WANT TO MAKE A JUDGMENT ABOUT  
GENERAL MIHAJLOVIC OR HIS ROLE IN HISTORY;  
THAT IS BETTER LEFT TO HISTORIANS. THE CHETNIKS DID  
PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ALLIED AVIATORS SHOT DOWN OVER  
YUGOSLAVIA, BUT THE PARTISANS DID AS WELL.  
FURTHER, THE OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT VIEW IS THAT  
THE CHETNIKS COLLABORATED WITH THE FACISTS RATHER  
THAN FIGHTING THEM.

WHEN THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT FIRST  
LEARNED OF THE SENATE ACTION, I WAS CALLED TO  
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HERE IN BELGRADE TO  
RECEIVE A "MOST ENERGETIC PROTEST". I  
UNDERSTAND THAT THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN  
WASHINGTON ALSO REGISTERED A SIMILAR PROTEST  
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WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION,

THE ISSUE HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONSTANT COMPLAINT DURING MY COURTESY CALLS ON SENIOR YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS OVER THE COURSE OF THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. BY ALL OF THEIR MEANS, THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR PROFOUND UNHAPPINESS WITH THE SENATE'S ACTION, AND THEIR HOPE THAT THE BILL WILL NOT BE PASSED.

BECAUSE OF THE EMOTIONS STIRRED UP BY THIS ISSUE HERE, I AM CONVINCED THAT US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS WOULD SUFFER A SERIOUS AND UNNECESSARY BLOW IF THE BILL WERE TO PASS THE HOUSE. I HAVE THEREFORE, WRITTEN TO CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI TO TELL HIM OF MY CONCERNS.

I DO NOT KNOW THAT THERE IS ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE DURING THIS SESSION TO REVERSE THE EARLIER SENATE ACTION. BUT I WOULD HOPE THAT IF THE HOUSE FAILS TO PASS THE LEGISLATION THIS YEAR, AND A SIMILAR BILL IS PROPOSED IN THE SENATE NEXT YEAR, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER IT BEFORE IT GOES TO THE FLOOR FOR A VOTE. SINCERELY YOURS, LAWRENCE S. EAGLEBURGER, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.

4. HONORABLE HOWARD H. BAKER, JR.  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

DEAR SENATOR BAKER:

I WAS INFORMED RECENTLY THAT THE  
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SENATE, UNDER THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT PROCEDURE, AUTHORIZED CONSTRUCTION OF A MONUMENT TO HONOR GENERAL DRAGOLJUB (DRAZA) MIHAJLOVIC, LEADER OF THE YUGOSLAV CHETNIKS DURING WORLD WAR II. I BELIEVE THAT THIS BILL, IF IT WERE TO BECOME LEGISLATION, WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS EFFECT ON US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS.

WHEN THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT LEARNED OF THE SENATE ACTION, I WAS CALLED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO RECEIVE A "MOST ENERGETIC PROTEST". IN WASHINGTON THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY REGISTERED A SIMILARLY STERN PROTEST WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE ISSUE IS A VERY EMOTIONAL ONE BOTH IN YUGOSLAVIA AND ABROAD, AND THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT HAS GONE OUT OF ITS WAY TO LET US KNOW HOW SERIOUSLY

IT VIEWS THE SENATE ACTION.

I AM NOT GOING TO DEBATE GENERAL MIHAJLOVIC'S PLACE IN HISTORY. THE CHETNIKS, AS YOU KNOW, WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN SAVING THE LIVES OF MANY ALLIED AVIATORS; BUT SO WERE THE PARTISANS. THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT VIEW IS THAT THE CHETNIKS COLLABORATED WITH THE FASCISTS RATHER THAN RESIST THEM, AND, THE YUGOSLAVS VIEW THE BILL AS A "PROVOCATION".

I HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN TO CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI TO EXPLAIN MY CONCERNS. I REALIZE THAT THERE IS LITTLE THE SENATE CAN OR SHOULD DO DURING THIS SESSION. HOWEVER, I WANTED TO ALERT YOU TO THIS PROBLEM IN CASE THE BILL IS PROPOSED AGAIN NEXT YEAR IN THE SENATE, AND TO ASK YOU, AS A MEMBER OF THE RULES COMMITTEE, TO WORK TO ASSURE THAT THE PROPOSAL -- IF IT IS RAISED AGAIN -- IS REFERRED TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHERE ALL SIDES OF THE ISSUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAN BE CONSIDERED. YOURS SINCERELY, LAWERENCE S. EAGLEBURGER, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.  
EAGLEBURGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Subject:** BILL ON THE MIHAJLOVIC MONUMENT  
**TAGS:** PGOV, YO, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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